



**Town of Fairfax**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**July 20, 2020, – 7:00pm**

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The drafted minutes presented below are unapproved subject to corrections and/or additions at the next Selectboard meeting. Those corrections and/or additions will be written to an amended version of the minutes, which will also be made available to the public.

**Selectboard Members Present:** Steve Cormier; Chair, Sheri Rainville; Vice-Chair, Stephen Bessette, Duane Leach & Randy DeVine

**Public Present:** Barbara Murphy, Christopher Cota, James Bowers, Jesse Fleming, Emily Kloft, Catherine Dimitruk, Rob Fish, Sean Kio, Shaun Coleman, Robert Zelley

**Employees Present:** Brad Docheff (Town Manager), Debbie Woodward, David Raymond

**Call to Order:** S. Cormier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Announcements/Additions & Deletions:** None

**Minutes:**

7-6-2020 S. Bessette made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Duane Leach, all in favor.

**Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants:**

7-13-2020 The Town and Utility warrants were reviewed by S. Bessette.  
7-20-2020 The Town and Utility warrants were reviewed by S. Cormier.

**Public Forum:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**James Bowers: appeal of Fire Department Invoice for Non-Permitted Fire**

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Fairfax Fire Department responded to calls of a fire on and around the property at 130 Meade Road, owned by James Bowers. The fire was not permitted, got out of control, and spread to cover approximately 7 acres of land. Based on the Fairfax Fire Department Service Reimbursement Ordinance, a fine was issued to Mr. Bowers for the costs of equipment and labor used to fight the fire. After receiving two letters from the Fire Dept., Mr. Bowers appealed the fine.

Mr. Bowers and Jesse Fleming (Fire Chief) provided their interpretations of the events and clarified aspects of the property lines and fire. Mr. Bowers stated his reasons for appealing the fine.

S. Cormier asked questions of both Mr. Bowers and Fire Department representatives. Brad Docheff (Town Manager) made a statement in support of the Fire Department's decision to levy the fine and that it was appropriate.

After brief discussion, S. Cormier stated that the fine would stand.

#### **Deb Woodward, Current Expense Note**

Deb has worked with the bank on an expense note in the amount of \$109,497.58 at a 1.32% interest rate to cover the remaining FY20 budgetary shortfall. This note will be put against the line of credit and is to be paid off by June 30, 2021.

S. Bessette made the motion to approve the Current Expense Note, seconded by Randy, all in favor.

#### **Resolution to Approve formation of Northwest Vermont Communications Union District (CUD)**

Rob Fish from the VT Department of Public Service and Catherine Dimitruk & Shaun Coleman of Northwest Regional Planning Commission spoke on some of the benefits of creating a regional CUD to better address the challenges related to lack of broadband connectivity in the area. Enosburgh voted to create the NW CUD earlier in the evening and Brad made the case for Fairfax to follow suit, as 2 municipalities are necessary for the formation of a district. More funding for CUDs has been made available for broadband through the CARES Act. Discussion of next steps and expectations followed.

Sheri Rainville made the motion for the Town of Fairfax to form a Communications Union District to be known as Northwest Vermont Communications Union District, seconded by S. Bessette, all in favor.

Christopher Cota, a Fairfax resident, was appointed as the Fairfax representative for the NW CUD.

#### **Review of application of Solid Waste Management Facility Certification**

The VT Agency of Natural Resources is considering an application from Working Dog Septic for certification of a site for the spreading of human septage. This was brought to the Board's attention by residents at a previous meeting. Brad spoke with the project contact to get more information about the implications and specifications about the proposal. There was concern from Board members about having septage spread upriver from the Town in an area that is prone to flooding. Discussion followed which included questions about monitoring, Waste Management Division testing standards, and the existence of other similar operations.

The period for public comment runs through August 3, 2020. The Selectboard has concerns about the proposal and will have a statement drafted to that effect for submission to ANR.

**Town Manager Updates:**

- A Road Safety Audit Review is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020 for the intersection of VT 104/VT 128 in Fairfax. Representatives from VTrans, NRPC, and the Town of Fairfax will be present.
- A large volume of absentee ballot requests have come in for the August primary. The Clerk's Office has their hands full with this project and is working diligently to get all the ballots out.
- The grant period for the FY20 Better Roads Grant has been extended through 12/31/2020. This grant will cover the work being done on the Shepardson Hollow Bridge.
- A site visit with FEMA representatives took place on Tuesday, 7/14. Tim and Brad met with the reps and visited sites where work remains from the Halloween Storm of 2019.
- Construction on the Shepardson Hollow Bridge has been moving along steadily, but there was a mishap with some parts that were delivered from out of state. This should not affect our costs, but will lead to a temporary delay in construction while things are sorted out.

**Other Business:**

None

**Adjournment:**

At 8:04 S. Bessette made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Duane, all in favor.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Brad Docheff; Town Manager.

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Steven Cormier  
Selectboard Chair

\*\* This meeting was held virtual through Zoom. Randy participated via phone.